

Delegate Report January 9, 2021 Area Committee Meeting

Good Morning Area 86 I am an Alcoholic; a member of the Fellowship Group in District 19 and I have the honour and the privilege of serving as your Panel 70 Delegate and my name is Sandi W.

Happy New Year to you and all your loved ones. I hope you all had a nice holiday break and stayed safe.

Welcome to the new DCM's, Alternate DCM's and any members joining us today for the first time. So glad you are here.

It is so hard to believe that it has been a year since we met in Hamilton for our 1st Area Committee Meeting of Panel 70. None of us could have imagined what we would be facing, not just Alcoholics Anonymous but the world as a whole. I would like to begin this report thanking you, the members of the Area 86 Committee that have continued to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. I know there have been challenges, and it pushed some of us out of our comfort zones. Please look around this zoom room, we are here together today, prepared to serve the best we can. We have been forced into learning new ways of doing things and we continue to show our eagerness and willingness to do so. Thank you seems so little but from the bottom of my heart thank you for all your calls, emails, questions and mostly for your dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous and service.

So on with my report, since the Fall Virtual Assembly what has been happening you ask?

Our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee had a meeting with the Delegates and Alternate Delegates from the 10 Eastern Canada Areas. Both Jeff and I attended and heard Jan L. share about the October Board weekend. I did send Jan's report out to the Area on November 7th and I covered some of the highlights in my Fall Assembly report. Trish L., our Canada Trustee at Large, was also invited to attend. Trish explained about an idea she had to make a North South Connection within the Remote Communities. Thank you to Jeff for covering this position for the Area and supplying us with more details. We look forward to getting the newly elected Sub Committee Chair for Accessibilities and Remote Communities in contact with Trish.

We met again December 17th to discuss a Delegates Orientation Day. Even years Ontario holds the Ontario Delegates Committee weekend (ODC) and the odd years CERAASA is held. Both of these events are to help the current Delegates prepare for the Conference. They are invaluable and with the cancellation of this years CERAASA our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee has put together a committee to organize a 1-day event. Both the Delegates and the Alternate Delegates take part so please try to attend February the 27th as it will be full of information pertaining to the Conference. Each of the 10 Eastern Canada Delegates serve on different Committees and I am assuming we will be asked to do a presentation on the Agenda items pertaining to our Committee(s). I will send out more information when it becomes available.

On November 26th both Jeff and I attended the 1st DCM and Alternate DCM Zoom Meeting. It was wonderful to see you all there and I believe it is a great way for you to help one another through sharing your issues and experiences. There was a lot of enthusiasm and sharing and it is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get to know one another a little better. It was decided that the meetings will be held bi-monthly, on the 4th Thursday for 1 hour. A DCM will Chair and an Alternate will be the Zoom tech. Area Officers or Sub Committee Chairs may be invited but that will be up to the DCM's. After asking for a Volunteer to Chair Amanda T., DCM D 18 and Steve C., Alternate DCM D 18 volunteered. Thank you for stepping up.

Area 83 reached out and asked for help at their ACM as they are an odd numbered Panel which rotated December 31st. They were having their Sub Committee Elections at their November ACM and were looking for Zoom techs to help with the ACM and elections. I asked Jeff S., our Alternate Delegate, Wim R., Alternate DCM for D 25 and Dave C., GSR for the Preston Scout House in D 18 to be a part of the Zoom Tech Team and they all agreed immediately. Thank you so very much to these 3 members as they all committed their time for the practice meetings and of course a full day on November 28th. It was so great to be able to help our neighbors and strengthen the bond we have established over the years. It is always a great opportunity to learn something when we see how others carryout their Business Meetings.

November 29th. I had a zoom meeting with the Chair of the Trustees Nominating Committee. I have been meeting with Kathi F. throughout the year. We meet both prior and post Board weekends and in between if the need arises. This is part of my responsibilities as Chair for the Conference Trustees' Committee.

December 5th was the first ever Virtual Forum, Eastern USCAN. I was so happy to see so many members there and some helping with the tech side of things. The four Ontario Delegates did a workshop together which was one of many. There was a lot to choose from and great presentations given by some of our GSO Staff and both Class A and Class B Trustees' participated. There will be a report posted on aa.org later if you are interested to read about the day. Because I had such a great day, I went back to the Western USCAN on December 19th. This allowed me the opportunity to see a few more things and get to learn more about the Trustees'.

All the in person Regional Forums had to be cancelled for 2021 so more Virtual Forms have been scheduled. If you are interested in attending one (no cost) please go to aa.org and you will find a link at the top of the home page just below the "Meeting Guide App". The schedule is there and you can also access reports from previous Forums.

While you are visiting aa.org check out "What's New". You will find information on the first ever Virtual World Service Meeting, attended by 44 countries. Reading the press release the following touched me. "This has been such a challenging year for everyone," says Mary C., acting international desk coordinator at the A.A. General Service Office in New York, who led the team which hosted the virtual WSM.

Nevertheless, she noted, "It's especially important to communicate openly with each other and to share ways in which we can keep A.A. sustainable and available to everyone." This applies to our home groups, Districts, Central Offices, Areas, Regions and yes, the whole entire world! We are all in this together.

The next WSM will be held in Japan, the first time this meeting will be held in Asia. There were 4 members from Japan and from their GSO that attended the Western USCAN with an interpreter. They were happy to there and expressed their gratitude and excitement to host the WSM in 2022. Before you buy a plane ticket, this meeting is not open to all members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our final Conference Trustees' Meeting was held via Zoom on December 6th. Even though I have never met these fellow members in person it was very sad saying goodbye. As the Panel 69's rotate off we now have the pleasure of welcoming the Panel 71 Delegates. This is just another example of how we speak the same language, the Language of the Heart and it is strong, I am so grateful for the time we spent together.

December the 14th Greg T., our GM at our General Service Office posted an announcement to the AA website under "What's New" that the new "Fellowship Connection" (formally My Portal) was launched and became available to all Area Registrars. I look forward to hearing an update from Dan our Secretary Registrar. Training was being rolled out in stages beginning December the 15th and continuing into January.

Also under "What's New" you will find the Holiday Issue of Box 459.

So, this brings us to 2021. I received an email on Wednesday that I should have received my "new" login information for the new Dashboard. This is where all the information is posted for the Conference. I did not receive the first email so after a bit we got it sorted out. I am planning on spending tomorrow getting familiar with the new platform and getting caught up.

I know that one of the forms I will be required to fill out is our order for the Final 71st Conference Report. This year was challenging as we did not meet in person and then for the DCM's to get them out to the Groups was difficult. There will be an Electronic Copy again this year but the hard copies are still available. These reports cost AA money of course so I do not want to order more than is required. I am asking the DCM's to calculate how many English, Spanish and French copies they would like for their Groups in their Districts. Please include your Officers and Sub Committee Chairs as they should also receive one. I would like your numbers in by the 15th of February please and thank you, I appreciate your assistance.

I am preparing for the "Orientation Weekend" in New York. The Conference Chairs are invited to the January Board Weekend for both Orientation and to be an observer. This will all be held Virtually of course this year. On Friday January 22nd I will be attending a full day of orientation. The following weekend I will be at the Grapevine Quarterly Board

Meeting all day Friday followed with a General Sharing Session in the evening. Saturday will begin with an AA Meeting and then into Committee Meetings for the rest of the weekend, ending at 3:00 PM on Monday after the General Service Board Quarterly Meeting. It is a full weekend and I am very excited and so grateful to you Area 86 for allowing me to serve you and for this incredible opportunity.

The theme for the 71st Conference this year is "A.A. in a time of Change."

Presentation/Discussion topics:

Practicing A.A.'s Spiritual Principles in a Changing World:

Recovery in a Changing World

Unity in a Changing World

Service in a Changing World

Workshop Topic:

Inform – Communicate

Involve – Act

Inspire - Attract

Please keep these in mind at your meetings. Perhaps suggest one of them at a discussion meeting and gather some input and feedback. Or have a presentation at the District table. This is how we share our experience; it begins with the members at the Group level. These can all be found in the Conference Report on page 51.

So, the Conference promises to have a very full Agenda. We will be covering the Agenda items that were pushed from last year to this year's Conference and of course there will be more. I really need your help getting the Agenda items out to the members and creating interest. The feedback that is shared with me I carry to the Conference. I will send out the Agenda items when they become finalized (beginning of February). We usually have workshops at the Pre- Conference Assembly but again we will be meeting on Zoom. We will set up workshops with the Sub Committees and we ask that you help to get the word out. ALL A.A. members are welcome, needed and encouraged to attend. How can your voice be heard if you don't participate?

Thank you to the Districts and members that have reached out with invitations to participate in their virtual events. I have enjoyed getting out to Round Ups, Alkathons, District, and Group Business Meetings. This is the most difficult part for me, and the part that I have been missing the most, not seeing you in your home Districts and getting to know the members of Area 86. Please if you have a Virtual event coming up and you would like an Area Sub Committee Chair or Officer to participate please contact our Chairperson, Janice and if you would like me to attend please contact me directly. One of the benefits of Zoom I was able to be in Sarnia for the day and still made up to Sault St. Marie for the evening! The roads were clear!

As always, I would like to thank my fellow Officers for all their hard work and support and welcome Dan and Tammy. They have been working hard, getting familiar with the tasks and their responsibilities. It is wonderful to be a part of such a positive team.

Thank you to Dave C. and Michelle T. both from D 18 for being here today as our Tech Team.

Thank you again to Dale and Percy for conducting our Elections.

To all those that will be allowing their name to stand today, thank you. All you have to do is be willing and raise that hand. Service is such a large part of our program and I can not imagine being sober today without it.

Thank you to the Districts that continue to send out their minutes. To those Districts that do not you are depriving us of getting to know you, the members and your District. Please consider sending them out, it is a New Year!

If I can be of any help please email or call me anytime. Area86delegatep70@gmail.com or 905-466-8408.

If no one has told you lately Area 86 YOU ROCK!

Gratefully yours in love and service,

Sandi W.
Panel 70 Delegate
Area 86 Western Ontario
Conference Trustees' Committee